



Jeb Bush  
Governor

# Department of Environmental Protection

Twin Towers Office Building  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2400

David B. Struhs  
Secretary

SITE: Florida Smelting Berman  
BREAK: 1.7  
OTHER: vol. 1

May 9, 2002

Ms. Barbara Dick  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Region 4  
61 Forsyth Street  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

**Re: CERCLA Site Discovery/ Prescreening Evaluation  
Florida Smelting Company, aka. Berman Brothers, Incorporated  
Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida**

Dear Barbara:

Please find enclosed a copy of the Site Discovery/Prescreening Evaluation for the above referenced site. This PE was completed as a FY 2002 Prescreening Evaluation Commitment. Based on the available site file information, we are recommending the site for inclusion into CERCLIS and completion of a Preliminary Assessment. If you have any questions please call me at (850) 488-3935. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Teresa Kinner  
Environmental Specialist I  
Site Screening Superfund Subsection  
Bureau of Waste Cleanup

Enclosure

cc: Reading File

WMD/SSMB  
RECEIVED

MAY 20 2002

EPA-REGION 4  
ATLANTA, GA



"Protect, Conserve and Manage Florida's Environment and Natural Resources"

# PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST/DECISION FORM

This checklist can assist the site investigator during the Pre-CERCLIS screening. It will be used to determine whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets, if necessary.

**Checklist Preparer:** Teresa Kinner /Environmental Specialist 4/25/02  
 (Name/Title) (Date)  
2600 Blair Stone Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32399 (850) 921-0858  
 (Address) (Phone)

Teresa.Kinner@dep.state.fl.us  
 (E-Mail Address)

**Site Name:** Florida Smelting Co. aka. Berman Brothers

**Previous Names (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Location:** 2726 Evergreen Avenue  
 (Street)  
Jacksonville FL 32208  
 (City) (ST) (Zip)

**Latitude:** N 30° 21' 16" **Longitude:** W 81° 38' 39"

Complete the following checklist. If "yes" is marked, please explain below.

	YES	NO
1. Does the site already appear in CERCLIS?		X
2. Is the release from products that are part of the structure of, and result in exposure within, residential buildings or businesses or community structures?		X
3. Does the site consist of a release of a naturally occurring substance in its unaltered form, or altered solely through naturally occurring processes or phenomena, from a location where it is naturally found?		X
4. Is the release into a public or private drinking water supply due to deterioration of the system through ordinary use?		X
5. Is some other program actively involved with the site (i.e., another Federal, State, or Tribal program)?		X
6. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (i.e., petroleum natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?		X
7. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (e.g., deferral to RCRA Corrective Action)?		X
8. Is there sufficient documentation that clearly demonstrates that there is no potential for a release that could cause adverse environmental or human health impacts (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, EPA approved risk assessment completed)?		X

Please explain all "yes" answer(s), attach additional sheets if necessary: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Determination:**☒ Enter the site into CERCLIS. Further assessment is recommended (explain below).☐ The site is not recommended for placement into CERCLIS (explain below).**DECISION/DISCUSSION/RATIONALE:**

The following site was forwarded by EPA and discovered through an article in ABCNEWS.com.

Florida Smelting Company was located at 2726 Evergreen Avenue in Duval County, Jacksonville, Florida. The site began operating in 1940 and since the beginning of its operations has been known to have another address of 17<sup>th</sup> Street and 2726 Evergreen. Florida Smelting Company operated at the 2726 Evergreen Avenue location until 1946, when the site became Albright and Company, Junk. In 1950 it appears that Florida Smelting Company began operations at another facility at 5800 Buffalo Avenue. Berman Brothers Incorporated, a smelting facility, which has owned the property since 1966, currently occupies the 2726 Evergreen Avenue location. Over the years the site has expanded and presently encompasses an area of about 5.5 acres. The 2726 Evergreen Avenue address is now the office of Berman Brothers, Incorporated. This property is contiguous with their facility at 2500 Evergreen Avenue, where smelting operations are conducted. The site's geographical coordinates are Latitude 30° 21' 16" and Longitude 81° 38' 39" in Section 6, Township 2 South and Range 27 East.

It is unclear exactly what types of smelting operations were conducted at the site at the time it was occupied by Florida Smelting Company. The company reportedly performed lead smelting. Currently operations at Berman Brothers, Incorporated consist of non-ferrous scrap processing of copper, brass, aluminum and stainless steel, ferrous scrap processing and storage of new structural steel and piping supplies. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has been involved with Berman Brothers Incorporated since 1985, when an oil spill was noted and not remediated. A consent order was signed in 1991. In August of 1992 a Preliminary Contamination Assessment revealed Chromium detected, sometimes above Maximum Contaminant Levels, in soils and Barium, Lead and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in soils and groundwater. In one monitoring well, oil was noted to be floating on the surface of groundwater in excess of two feet. In August of 1992 a Contamination Assessment Plan was enacted. Around 3,000 gallons of contaminated groundwater was removed and 150 tons of contaminated soil was excavated and disposed of.

In 1993, nearly 400 gallons of phase-separated hydraulic oil was recovered from a shallow pond that was constructed in the area of the plume. Apparently, another 595.4 tons of impacted soil was also removed at that time. Again soil samples revealed the presence of chromium, lead and PCBs. In March of 1997, ten soil samples were taken with eight of those detecting PCBs. In March, April and August of 1999, soil samples were collected to define the remaining areas of PCB contamination so that a remedial action plan could be implemented. Several samples contained PCB levels above both residential and industrial state cleanup levels. Reportedly, 435 tons of soils were transported for disposal, though no waste manifests have ever been produced. Various data gaps exist, including Quality Control discrepancies and lack of Quality Control information.

According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Population Tiger Database, a total of 139,695 people live within four miles of the site. A review of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Potable Well System (PWS) database indicates that within four miles there are a number of municipal wells (North Grid and South Grid), serving approximately 376,360 individuals. An additional 31,173 individuals are served by ten other well systems within four miles of the site. The St. Johns River, located within two miles of the site is used extensively for recreational boating and swimming. It is also a migratory area for the federally endangered Shortnose Sturgeon and is a critical habitat for the Florida Manatee. A relatively large number of targets are nearby, including drinking water wells. Two schools are located within a half mile of the site.

Based on previous sampling activity verifying the presence of contaminants and known activities that were performed onsite, there is a threat of release to groundwater or contact with contaminated soil. The site is recommended for inclusion into CERCLIS and completion of a CERCLA Preliminary Assessment.

**Regional EPA Reviewer:**

Wesley Haradgice Wesley S. Haradgice  
Print Name/Signature

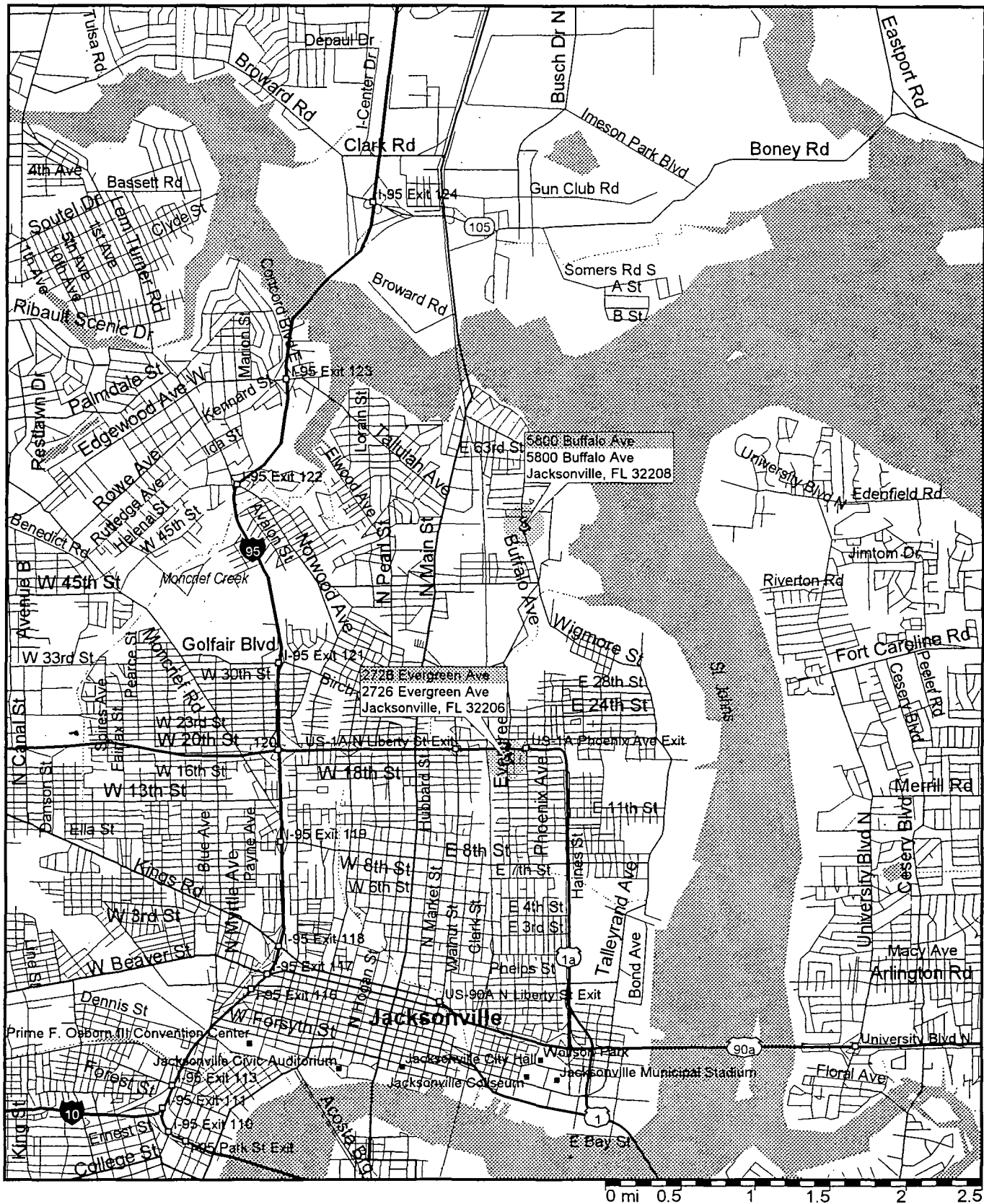
7/22/02  
Date

**State Agency/Tribe:**

Teresa Kinner /  
Print Name/Signature

5/19/02  
Date

## Lead Sites



# Streets98